Export of Sugar

*215. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 15 given in Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 1995 and state:

(a) the reasons for the export of sugar to keep its prices high; and

(b) the reasons for not allowing sugar prices to come down to a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Sugar production during the year 1994-95 was of the order of 145.85 lakh tonnes (provisional). The closing stock of sugar as on 1.10.1995, i.e. beginning of the new sugar season, was 55.77 lakh tonnes. The export allowed so far has been of the order of 5 lakh tonnes. There is thus more than sufficient quantity of sugar available to influence the open market sale of sugar, which is also allowed on a regulated basis and supplements the availability of sugar released through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The releases for open market sale of sugar are so modulated as to keep the sugar prices within reasonable limits taking into account the need for maintaining the viability of the industry and its obligation to make payment to the sugar cane farmers. The export of sugar also helps to strengthen viability of the industry and is instrumental in earning foreign exchange.

Drop In Off-Take of Rice from PDS in Kashmir

*216. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the off-take of rice from the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Kashmir has fallen by about 72 percent in just over three months; and

(b) if so, whether the quality of the rice supplied has been one of the reasons for the drop in demand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The off-take of rice for the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Jammu & Kashmir from 1993 has been as follows:

Year	Off-take (In 000' Tonnes)	Average Monthly Off-take
1993 (Jan. to Dec.)	159.10	13.25
1994 (Jan. to Dec.)	162.50	13.54
1995		
1st Quarter		
(Jan. to March)	31.80	10.60
2nd Quarter		
(Apr. to June)	62.33	20.77
3rd Quarter		
(July to Sept.)	47.50	15.83
Jan to Sept.	141.63	15.73

It may be observed that the average monthly off-take of rice for PDS in Jammu & Kashmir has been more or less at the same level. In the 2nd